

# AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF CANTORS

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August 2011

Dear Colleague,

Our Conference is supported by the dues and financial contributions of our members. Over 77% of our budgeted income comes directly from the dues of our membership. The ACC has a policy which encourages members who are unable to meet their financial obligations to discuss their situations with the ACC's treasurer, who is empowered to grant relief in the form of a modification in dues payments, which may include spreading dues out over the course of the fiscal year into a payment plan, a reduction in the amount, or a forgiveness of dues in their entirety.

Thankfully, many of us are blessed with the ability to assist our fellow cantors who find themselves in need. Through a new program of "enhanced dues," **we invite you to join those within our Conference who can commit to participating in this new program.** This means that in addition to your regular dues payment in your appropriate category, you would be donating an additional **\$360**.

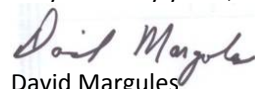
Although those who ask for dues relief represent a relatively small percentage of the ACC's membership at only about 5%, the amount of reduced and forgiven dues could total as much as \$20,000 of operating funds in any given year. By replacing those funds through these voluntary contributions, we will be able to continue to offer membership to those who may not otherwise be able to afford to remain part of the Conference. In addition, this enables the Conference to maintain the levels of programming and support, including Placement and many other services that we offer today. Of course, we welcome any amount of additional dues offset that you are able to contribute.

As an organization, we have been and continue to be committed to assisting members who are in financial need with their dues, so long as they reach out to us requesting some sort of forbearance. As a member of the ACC, you are invited to voluntarily increase your membership dues by \$360, which will directly offset the dues of fellow ACC members who are currently unable to meet their financial commitments and who ask for their dues to be forgiven or reduced; this donation, while going to the ACC's operating budget, will offset whatever dues are reduced or forgiven by the ACC's treasurer.

While we know no one does this to gain recognition, members choosing to participate may be recognized via the ACC's website, Koleinu publications, during Conventions, and in other appropriate ways. Of course, we will accept anonymous donations as well. Because supporting the enhanced dues program is a voluntary contribution, you may choose to use discretionary funds.

**We thank you for fulfilling this mitzvah of tzedakah.** We look forward to your inclusion of this donation on your Annual Dues Commitment Form.

Very sincerely yours,

  
David Margules

ACC Treasurer



Kerith Spencer-Shapiro

ACC Vice President, Membership

The American Conference of Cantors is a 501c3 organization.

An Affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism